

MTA Web site: <http://www.mtechnology.org>  
Email: [MTA@mtechnology.org](mailto:MTA@mtechnology.org)

*Executive Editor*  
Valerie J. Harvey, Ph.D.

*Managing Editor*  
Pamela G. McIntyre

*Editorial Board*  
Richard G. Davis, Ph.D.  
Michael A. Ginsburg

*Review Board*  
Mark V. Berryman  
A. Clayton Curtis, M.D.  
Richard G. Davis, Ph.D.  
Ruth E. Dayhoff, M.D.  
Michael A. Ginsburg  
Valerie J. Harvey, Ph.D.  
Frederick L. Hiltz, Ph.D.  
Lee Hirz  
Arthur Lee  
Jeff Loeb  
William J. Majurski  
David Marcus  
Frederick D.S. Marshall  
Thomas Munnecke  
Helmuth F. Orthner, Ph.D.  
Roger Partridge  
Gail Penrod  
Kate M. Schell  
Arthur B. Smith  
Hans T. von Blanckensee, Ph.D.  
Richard F. Walters, Ph.D.  
Joel Yungton

*M Computing* is published by MUMPS Users' Group trading as M Technology Association, Suite 205, 1738 Elton Road, Silver Spring, Maryland 20903. Phone: 301-431-4070, Fax: 301-431-0017.

*M Computing* (ISSN-1060-7684) is copyrighted by the M Technology Association. Material in this magazine may be excerpted by reviewers providing that credit for the original publication is made to *M Computing* (specify volume and issue numbers and date), a publication of the M Technology Association, Silver Spring, MD 20903 (Phone: 301-431-4070). Permission for reprinting articles from *M Computing* must be granted by the editor.

The information in this publication is believed to be accurate as of its publication date. MTA is not responsible for inadvertent errors. All trade and product names referenced are the service marks or trademarks of their respective companies. Opinions expressed are those of the individual authors.

## FROM THE EDITOR

# Crossroads and Crosscurrents

by Valerie J. Harvey



Valerie J. Harvey

About the MTA conference in Boston...

The 1997 MTA conference took place against the large-scale context of the Database and Client/Server World Conference. Participants in this year's MTA conference found coverage of the oldest and newest in the realm of M Technology. The earliest origins of M in the form of MUMPS were explored in a panel presentation while the new Omega standards initiative was pursued. Art Smith talked about the "M at the Crossroads" session in his "Questing" column in this issue. A number of sessions dealt with Web-related topics, the object paradigm and CORBA, GUI front-end development, and SQL. Thanks to Gardner Trask we were treated to "shoot-outs" on GUIs and report generators. Year 2000 software reliability issues (see George James' article on this topic in this year's March *M Computing* issue) were the major theme of this year's Database and Client/Server World Conference and were addressed in several MTA sessions. Congratulations on the quality and vitality of the event to the conference steering committee (Susan O' Gorman, Gardner Trask, Gail Penrod, and Rick Sulzer), the program committee members, and the MTA staff!

About new publications...

The past month marked the appearance of books on M programming and VA information technology. Richard Walter's new text (*M Programming: A Comprehensive Guide*, see page 38 to order) meets an urgent need for an English-language text that is up-to-date with regard to the M standard. This book joins Ed de Moel's *M/[UMPS] by Example*, a treatment of M keyed to elements of the standard, published by the MTA earlier this year, Wolfgang Kirsten's German-language advanced M programming text (*Von ANS MUMPS zu ISO M Technologie*, Epsilon-Verlag, 1993), and Rick Marshall's *Standard M Pocket Guide* (MTA, 1996) to help assure current resources for those learning M. *Computerizing Large Integrated Health Networks: The VA Success*, edited by Robert Kolodner (Springer, ISBN 0-387-94837-6) was published in Springer's "Computers in Health Care" series. This book presents 31 contributions as chapters grouped into the following six sections: Networking for Healthcare Delivery, System Design, Clinical Information Technology, Clinical and Support Applications, System Evolution, and Telemedicine and Telehealth. Reviews of new publications are in preparation for coming issues.

About this issue...

Last fall when I asked for suggestions about what readers wanted, one of the

requests was for "success stories." Such articles help us identify the vertical markets in which applications using M Technology succeed and also the qualities of the technology that are valued for the new applications. The article in this issue focuses on mobile computing in oil distribution. Last year research conducted at the University of California, Davis, gave us valuable comparative reports dealing with database performance properties of M Technology. The UCD work compared performance of M, VA FileMan, and a well-known relational database product. In this issue a Korean article compares performance of one hospital system implemented first using a relational database product and subsequently using M Technology. The rare opportunity for such a database and system performance comparison comes from the 900-bed Ajou University Hospital in Korea's Kyunggi Province. In his Manager's Forum column, Don Gall presents his ideas on how M technology's performance is gained and on the specific role of data clustering.

About the Editorial Review Board meeting...

The *M Computing* Editorial Review Board met in Boston in May (reviewer and MTA staff participants: Richard Davis, Ed de Moel, Fred Hiltz, Lee Hirz, David Marcus, Roger Partridge, Sandra Reynolds, Kate Schell, Art

Smith, Dick Walters, and Joel Yungton). We talked about the mission of *M Computing*, the need for more technical articles (and getting articles from technical people in M-user and M-system-vendor organizations), an MTA website section on *M Computing*, including reviews of products and books, getting the journal into business school and medical school libraries, and advertising. We talked about topics that should be covered and one of them is employment-related: finding M programmers, given the strong demand. Suggestions on this topic included publishing a salary survey, articles on "growing your own" M programmers, and successful in-house training and distance-learning strategies, and a treatment of the topic from the point of view of recruiters. Please contact me if you have information or an article to contribute on this or another topic. **M**

---

*Valerie J. Harvey, Ph.D., is a professor at Robert Morris College in Pennsylvania and the executive editor of M Computing. Write to her in care of MTA's managing editor or email to: harvey@rmcnet.robert.morris.edu*

---

## InfoMed M Professionals

InfoMed, headquartered in the Ft. Lauderdale, FL area, the industry leader in providing home health care agencies nationwide with state-of-the-art software systems designed to address every aspect of home care information management, is currently seeking to expand our team with experienced M programmers. Ideal candidates should possess a bachelors degree in computer science, information systems, or equivalent experience in M programming and analysis.

InterSystems M/SQL, Micronetics MSM, Borland Delphi, Oracle and Object Orientation experience is a plus. In return, we offer an excellent benefits and compensation package including medical and dental insurance, company-paid life insurance, long-term disability insurance, 401(K), tuition reimbursement and much more.

For immediate consideration, please forward your resume to InfoMed, 1180 SW 36 Ave., Pompano Beach, FL. 33069, Attn: Human Resources Dept. 954-974-0707 x117; fax 954-975-3906

**VIRGINIA MASON** Medical Center

## Systems Analyst/ Programmers

As one of the Northwest's most respected healthcare providers, Virginia Mason Medical Center, located in Seattle, Washington, is enjoying tremendous growth. Here you will enjoy the lifestyle advantages the Pacific Northwest has to offer, from affordable housing to a wealth of cultural & recreational activities. To manage our growth while maintaining our high standards, Virginia Mason seeks experienced Systems Analyst/Programmers with 2 yrs experience in M language & DCL programming. IDX applications & Billing Accounts Receivable experience preferred for the following:

### MUMPS SAP III, BAR Team

Responsible for the maintenance & new project work in support of Billing Accounts Receivable.

### MUMPS SAP III, MCA Team

Responsible for the maintenance & new project work in support of Managed Care.

Virginia Mason offers a competitive salary & benefits package. For immediate consideration, please forward resume & cover letter to: Virginia Mason, P.O. Box 900, Attn: C. Hizon, M6-PFS, Seattle, WA 98111. Email: hroclh@vmc.org. Equal Opportunity Employer. For more information on Virginia Mason, see our homepage at: <http://www.vmmc.org>